

## ABSTRACT

In a method and an apparatus for frame transfer which can flexibly and individually set a normally-transferred frame and a monitored frame, the monitored frame having unique in-device information and the normally-transferred frame are generated from a received frame, and then a path is established corresponding to these frames. Also, the same local switch is arranged on both sides of a network processor, a monitoring function is realized by looping back a frame determined to be monitored in the network processor to the network processor through the local switch, and two frames looped back to the network processor are respectively processed into the normally-transferred frame and a CPU-transferred frame to be transferred to the switch portion.

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